



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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Date: April 12, 2013
For Immediate Release

New Bedford Launches Website to Help Tackle Problem Properties

New online feature allows neighbors to report possible code violations

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Mayor Jon Mitchell today announced the availability of a new online feature on the City's website that enables neighborhood residents to submit photos and complaints regarding problem properties directly to the Mayor's Neighborhood Task Force. The Task Force is a multi-departmental team that has been working for more than a year to crack down on nuisance properties owned largely by absentee landlords, to improve the quality of life in New Bedford neighborhoods.

Nearly two hundred run-down properties have been cited for corrective actions and the results are visible throughout the city. Several high crime properties have been boarded up and shut down. Trash strewn lots have been cleaned and absentee owners have been billed for the cleanup costs. Graffiti covered buildings have been painted over and trash/nuisance violations have been ticketed. The new web feature will be another tool in this ongoing effort.

The interactive webpage was built by two student interns from Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School in collaboration with Assistant City Solicitor John Flor, who leads the Task Force. Mathew Fleurent and Jonathan Nunes assisted with the development of the page as part of their internship with the City. The Task Force section of the City's website may be accessed at <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/Mayor/TaskForce/index.html> and under "Hot Topics" on the City of New Bedford's homepage. Follow the Mayor's Task Force on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/TaskForceNB>

"I encourage the residents of New Bedford to use this online tool to provide the Task Force with information needed to address code violations and nuisance properties owned by absentee landlords," said Mitchell. "Together, we can work to improve the quality of our neighborhoods."

Information supplied by the public through webpage will assist the Task Force in identifying and addressing code violations throughout New Bedford's neighborhoods.

All legitimate violations will be investigated or referred to the appropriate department. The webpage also offers information on violations, maps documenting code enforcement sweeps, as well as before and after images of properties the Task Force has addressed

The Task Force on Neighborhood Quality was created by Mayor Mitchell in his first months in office. Under the direction of Attorney Flor, the task force pools the resources of several city departments to conduct targeted and coordinated code enforcement. Members of the Building, Police, DPI, Health and Fire departments regularly meet to conduct full neighborhood sweeps and to investigate individual property complaints.

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